

FACT SHEET



Iowa City Former Manufactured Gas Plant

Iowa City, Iowa

July 1998

INTRODUCTION

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will conduct field activities in the vicinity of the Iowa City Former Manufactured Gas Plant site. The field activities will begin the week of July 20, 1998.

FIELD ACTIVITIES

EPA will conduct soil boring operations near the Burlington Street Bridge, located directly west of the intersection of Burlington and Van Buren Streets. The purpose of this activity is twofold. First, EPA is working with the Iowa Department of Transportation and the Iowa City, City Engineer's office to obtain information that can be used to design the foundation for a new bridge on Burlington Street. Second, EPA will use information from the soil borings to determine whether contamination from the former manufactured gas plant has migrated from the plant site to the bridge.

A drill rig will be moved to the bridge to take the soil borings. During this time, the bridge will be open to traffic, with a reduced number of open lanes. EPA personnel operating the drill rig will be wearing white protective suits to keep mud, used to plug the borings, off their clothing.

This field activity is expected to take four days.

BACKGROUND

From 1910 to 1939, gas was manufactured at a plant located on the southeast corner of Burlington and Van Buren Streets. When the gas was produced, by-products such as coal tar were also produced. Some compounds found in coal tar are hazardous substances that can cause health and environmental problems if handled improperly.

EPA is currently evaluating information from soil, groundwater, sediment, and surface water samples taken from the site. This evaluation will be made available when it is complete.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you have questions about this fact sheet or need additional information, please contact:

Diane Huffman, Community Involvement Coordinator
Office of External Programs
U.S. EPA, Region 7
726 Minnesota Avenue
Kansas City, Kansas 66101
(913) 551-7003 or
Toll-free 1-800-223-0425
E-mail: huffman.diane@epamail.epa.gov

